

**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION
OF ANNEXES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT (ARTICLE 34):**

Amended Sheets (Pages 78-80)

Claims

[1] (Amended) An ionomer obtained by reacting metal compound particles having an average particle diameter of 1 μm or less, with an olefin-based random copolymer obtained by copolymerizing ethylene, an α -olefin having 3 to 10 carbon atoms, a functional group-containing unsaturated monomer and, as necessary, a non-conjugated diene.

[2] (Amended) An ionomer according to Claim 1, wherein a proportion of the metal compound particles is 0.01 to 10 parts by mass relative to 100 parts by mass of the olefin-based random copolymer.

[3] An ionomer according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein a metal component in the metal compound particles is at least one kind of metal selected from the group consisting of sodium, magnesium, calcium, zirconium, zinc and aluminum.

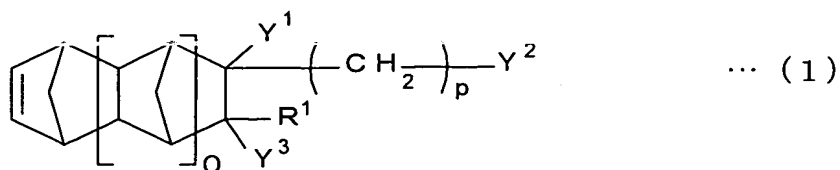
[4] An ionomer according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the metal compound particles are made of zinc oxide.

[5] (Cancelled)

[6] (Amended) An ionomer according to Claim 1, wherein a functional group in the functional group-containing unsaturated monomer is carboxyl group, hydroxyl group, epoxy group or sulfonic acid group.

[7] (Amended) An ionomer according to Claim 1, wherein the functional group-containing unsaturated monomer is a functional cyclic compound represented by the following general formula (1):

[Formula 1]



[in the general formula (1), R¹ is a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms; Y¹, Y² and Y³ are each independently a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or -COOH with a proviso that at least one of Y¹, Y² and Y³ is -COOH and, when two or more of Y¹, Y² and Y³ are -COOH, they may combine to each other to form an acid anhydride [-CO-(O)-CO-]; o is an integer of 0 to 2; and p is an integer of 0 to 5].

[8] (Amended) An ionomer according to Claim 1, wherein the olefin-based random copolymer is a copolymer obtained by copolymerizing 35 to 94.99 mol % of ethylene, 5 to 50 mol % of an α -olefin having 3 to 10 carbon atoms, 0.01 to 5 mol % of a functional cyclic compound represented by the general formula (1) and 0 to 10 mol % of a non-conjugated diene.

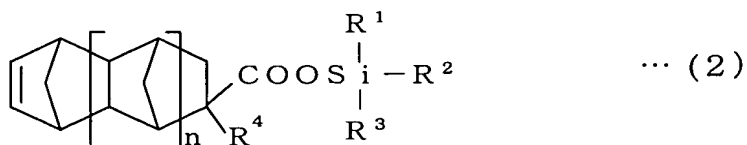
[9] (Amended) A process for producing an ionomer, which comprises a step of subjecting an olefin-based random copolymer obtained by copolymerizing ethylene, an α -olefin having 3 to 10 carbon atoms, a functional group-containing unsaturated monomer and, as necessary, a non-conjugated diene, to a heat treatment or a dynamic heat treatment in the presence of metal compound particles having an average particle diameter of 1 μm or less.

[10] (Amended) A molded article obtained by molding a molding material containing an ionomer set forth in any of Claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 8, by a molding method selected from injection molding, extrusion molding, vacuum molding, powder slush molding, calender molding, transfer molding, solvent casting and press molding.

[11] A process for producing an ionomer, which comprises

subjecting, to a dynamic heat treatment, a metal compound and an olefin-based random copolymer obtained by copolymerizing ethylene, an α -olefin having 3 to 10 carbon atoms and a functional cyclic compound represented by the following general formula (2):

[Formula 2]



[in the general formula (2), n is 0 or 1; and R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are each independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or a mono-valent organic group].

[12] A process for producing an ionomer according to Claim 11, wherein, in the above mentioned general formula (2), R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

[13] A process for producing an ionomer according to Claim 11 or 12, wherein, in the above mentioned general formula (2), all of R¹, R² and R³ are an ethyl group, or one of R¹, R² and R³ is a tert-butyl group and the remaining two are each a methyl group.

[14] A process for producing an ionomer according to any of Claims 11 to 13, wherein, in the above mentioned general formula (2), R⁴ is a methyl group.